

Pilgrims Return to Clark's Island

Historical interpreters from *Plimoth Plantation* will once again be the centerpiece of the festivities during the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society's Clark's Island picnic. The picnic, open to the public, will take place July 28 from 1-4 p.m. at Cedarfield on the east side of the island.

The annual picnic is an opportunity for families to enjoy the historic surroundings of Cedarfield, the second oldest house on the island. The house was bequeathed to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society 33 years ago by poet and scholar Sarah Wingate Taylor.

Clark's Island in Plymouth Bay was the spot where the first exploring party from the *Mayflower* washed ashore in 1620. The group, including William Bradford, Myles Standish, and William Brewster, had been sent out to determine a satisfactory spot for settlement. A storm forced them to take shelter on Clark's Island. On the morning of the next day they walked to the top of the island where stands an enormous glacial boulder. As it was Sunday, they celebrated their first Sabbath ashore in the New World. It was also on this spot that they elected to establish their plantation at Plymouth Bay. For these reasons, the outcropping on Clark's Island is known both as Pulpit Rock and Election Rock.

The historical interpreters, for those who haven't seen them at the Plantation, take on



Interpreters from Plimoth Plantation board the ship's boat. A similar landing party will attend the Historical Society's annual picnic at Clark's Island.

Photo courtesy of Plimoth Plantation.

the personas of actual English settlers who came to New Plimoth, complete with period costume and dialect. For them, the year is 1627. At the event, they will discuss their reminiscences of the first landing on Clark's Island, or what they heard of it from other settlers. They will also celebrate a Sabbath service at Election Rock.

The landing party of Pilgrims will arrive on the island around 1 p.m. and will reenact a Sabbath service around 2 p.m.

The Duxbury Bay Maritime School has offered use of their launch to transport those who do not have a boat to the picnic. Space is limited. To sign up for transportation, please call the Society at 934-6106.